



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Joseph A. Zupanick
Serial No. : 10/630,345
Filed : July 29, 2003
Title : METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING SUBTERRANEAN DEPOSITS
FROM THE SURFACE AND TOOLS THEREFOR

Art Unit : 3672
Examiner : John J. Kreck
Conf. No. : 9309

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBMISSION OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION UNDER MPEP § 724

Applicant hereby requests consideration of materials containing proprietary information in accordance with MPEP § 724.

The information disclosed herein includes materials provided by Cliffs Natural Resources on or about February 2009 that may relate to some of the Inventor's past activities. Some of the documents included with these materials have dates that may precede the November 20, 1998 filing date of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/197,687 (which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,280,000 on August 28, 2001) to which the present Application claims priority. The proprietary information is dispersed in the provided materials.

To the extent the Examiner identifies or otherwise believes there is any additional information that may be material to patentability of one or more of the claims of the present application or if the Examiner desires additional clarification with respect to these materials, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to request such information. Further, Applicant appreciates the volume of materials submitted herewith, and, as such, Applicant would appreciate an in-person meeting between the Examiner and Applicant's representatives in order to facilitate the Examiner's review of the disclosed information and to answer any questions the Examiner may have.

Note, by referring to the information submitted herewith as "proprietary" information in accordance with MPEP § 724, Applicant is not admitting that the information does not also qualify as a trade secret.

02 FC:1806

180.00 OP

DELIVERY BY HAND to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office,
Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314.

Date of Delivery

7/6/09

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Attorney's Docket No.: 17601-0043001 / 067083.0205

This statement is being filed after a first Office action on the merits, but before receipt of a final Office action or a Notice of Allowance. A check for \$180 in payment of the late submission fee of §1.17(p) is enclosed. This submission under MPEP § 724 is being made concurrently with a Petition to Expunge under 37 CFR § 1.59(b). A check for \$200.00 for the Petition to Expunge are included. Please apply any additional charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06 1050, referencing the above attorney docket number.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 2, 2009

/Sean M. Dean/

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